

CM What is Claimed is:

1. A quick release attachment system for coupling a hand of a skier to a ski pole, comprising:

5 a ski pole grip having a front side and back side, joined by opposite lateral sides and having a cross-sectional shape sized so that the hand of the skier can be wrapped around the ski pole grip in a gripping manner;

a strap having a first and second end, the first end attached to the skier;

a strap pin attached to the second end of the strap;

10 an attachment mechanism disposed within the ski pole grip for receiving and locking the strap pin to the ski pole grip;

an ejection mechanism;

15 an elongated channel extending in a horizontal direction into the front side of the ski pole grip above the hand of the skier while said hand is wrapped around the ski pole grip, the strap pin inserting horizontally into the channel and engaging with the attachment mechanism while moving the ejection mechanism into a compressed cocked position; and

20 a button extending from one of the lateral sides of the ski pole grip and mechanically coupled to the attachment mechanism, the button depressible by the hand of the skier disengaging the attachment mechanism from the strap pin allowing the ejection mechanism to uncock, the ejection mechanism when uncocked ejecting the strap pin horizontally from the channel out over a top end of the hand of the skier while said same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip.

25 *Sub 169* 2. An attachment system according to claim 1 wherein the button as an elongated front face that extends horizontally from substantially the front to the back side of the ski pole grip, the front face allowing button actuation by either a thumb or a forefinger of the hand while the remaining fingers on said hand remain
30 wrapped around the ski pole grip.

129 3. An attachment system according to claim 2 wherein the button is recessed below an outside surface of the ski pole grip.

5 4. An attachment system according to claim 1 wherein the ejection mechanism comprises a spring compressible in a horizontal direction inside the ski pole grip, the spring in the cocked position having sufficient compressional force to eject the strap pin completely out of the channel when the attachment mechanism disengages the strap pin.

10 5. An attachment system according to claim 1 wherein the strap pin includes a notch extending circumferentially around an outside surface and the attachment mechanism comprises a finger pivotally coupled to a pin in the ski pole grip, the finger extending transversely over the strap pin and into the notch for retaining said strap pin in the channel.

15 6. An attachment system according to claim 1 wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a finger and an attachment spring for springingly pressing the finger against the strap pin, the attachment spring compressible in a direction perpendicular to the horizontal direction of the channel.

20 7. An attachment system for securing a hand of a skier to a ski pole, comprising:

a ski pole grip having a front and back and sides contoured for gripping with the hand of the skier;

25 a strap having a first and second end, the first end attached to the skier;
an elongated tubular strap pin attached to the second end of the strap;
an attachment mechanism disposed within the ski pole grip for receiving and locking the strap pin to the ski pole grip;

an ejection mechanism disposed inside the ski pole grip;

30 an elongated circular channel extending horizontally into the ski pole grip, the strap pin inserting horizontally into the channel and engaging with the attachment mechanism while moving the ejection mechanism into a compressed

cocked position; and

a button coupled to the attachment mechanism and depressible with the hand of the skier, the button in the depressed condition disengaging the strap pin from the attachment assembly allowing the ejection mechanism to uncock thereby ejecting the strap pin completely out of the channel while the same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip.

8. (New) A quick release attachment system for coupling a hand of a skier to a ski pole, comprising:

a ski pole grip having a front side and back side, joined by opposite lateral sides and having a cross-sectional shape sized so that the hand of the skier can be wrapped around the ski pole grip in a gripping manner;

a pin attached to the hand of a skier;

an attachment mechanism disposed within the ski pole grip for receiving and locking the strap pin to the ski pole grip;

an ejection mechanism;

an elongated channel extending in a horizontal direction into the front side of the ski pole grip above the hand of the skier while said hand is wrapped around the ski pole grip, the pin inserting horizontally into the channel and engaging with the attachment mechanism while moving the ejection mechanism into a cocked position; and

a button extending from the ski pole grip and mechanically coupled to the attachment mechanism, the button depressible by the hand of the skier disengaging the attachment mechanism from the strap pin allowing the ejection mechanism to eject the strap pin horizontally from the channel out over a top end of the hand of the skier while said same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip.

9. (New) A quick release attachment system according to claim 8 wherein the ejection mechanism comprises a strap.

~~10. (New) A quick release attachment system for coupling a hand of a skier to a ski pole, comprising:~~

~~a ski pole grip having a front side and back side, joined by opposite lateral sides and having a cross-sectional shape sized so that the hand of the skier can be wrapped around the ski pole grip in a gripping manner;~~

~~a pin connected to a glove of a skier;~~

~~an attachment mechanism disposed within the ski pole grip for receiving and locking the strap pin to the ski pole grip;~~

~~an elongated channel extending in a horizontal direction into the front side of the ski pole grip above the hand of the skier while said hand is wrapped around the ski pole grip, the pin inserting horizontally into the channel and engaging with the attachment mechanism; and~~

~~a button on the ski pole grip and mechanically coupled to the attachment mechanism, the button depressible by the hand of the skier disengaging the attachment mechanism from the pin allowing the strap pin to detach from the attachment mechanism and move out of the channel and toward a top end of the hand of the skier while same hand of the skier remains wrapped around the ski pole grip.~~